

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 7, 12 and 16-20 are pending in the application upon entry of this Amendment. By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 7, 12 and 16, no claims have been canceled and no claims have been added. Of the pending claims, claims 7, 12 and 16 are the only independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101

In the Office Action mailed March 7, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 12 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Specifically, the Examiner stated that independent claims 7 and 12 lack any requirement of a tangible result and independent claim 16 does not recite a tangible result being produced. By this paper, Applicant has amended independent claims 7, 12 and 16 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, such amendments requiring/providing a tangible result. Support for the amendment to claims 7, 12 and 16 may be found, for example, in the drawings at Fig.1 and 4; and in the Specification at page 5 lines 13-23, page 6 lines 7-10 and page 8 line 31 through page 9 line 3. Accordingly, no new matter has been added and the § 101 rejection of these claims is believed to be obviated.

Regarding claims which depend from claims 7, 12 or 16, Applicant contends that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claims 7, 12 and 16 are patentable. Moreover, Applicant contends that these claims recite further limitations, in addition to the limitations of claims 7, 12 and 16 which render these claims additionally patentable.

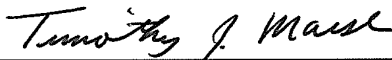
Conclusion

Applicant has made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicant believes all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss prompt resolution of any remaining issues necessary to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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